Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (canceled)

10. (new) A method for executing a security critical activity having at least one action, the security critical activity being executed by a security device connected to a computer with user involvement, the method comprising the steps of:

defining in a proxy letter a situation in which the proxy letter is allowed to handle a security critical activity;

starting execution of an action of a security critical activity in a present situation;

determining, for the started action and the present situation and based on the proxy letter, whether (a) the proxy letter is allowed to handle the started action without direct user involvement or (b) direct user involvement is required to handle the started action;

when the started action is handled by the proxy letter or by direct user involvement, completing the started action and repeating the starting execution and determining steps for each action in the security critical activity until each action in the security critical activity has been completed; and

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when started action is handled neither by the proxy letter nor by direct user involvement, stopping execution of the security critical activity.

11. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the defining step includes the step of defining in the proxy letter situations in which the proxy letter is allowed to grant an action.

12. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the defining step includes the step of defining in the proxy letter situations in which the proxy letter is allowed to prevent an action from being executed.

13. (new) The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of determining whether the proxy letter is allowed to prevent an action from being executed and stopping execution of the action when the action is one the proxy letter is allowed to prevent from being executed.

14. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the determining step includes the steps of reading the proxy letter and requesting direct user involvement if the proxy letter is not allowed to handle the started action.

15. (new) The method of claim 14, following the step of requesting direct user involvement, further comprising the steps of waiting a predetermined period of time and, when direct user involvement has not occurred within the predetermined period of time, stopping execution of the security critical activity.

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16. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of completing the started action comprises the step of logging whether the proxy letter or direct user involvement handled the action.